

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

In addition the heavy handed orders that will force me to spend hundreds of dollars to purchase a new digital TV amounts to nothing less than a tax. I might also point out; a digital TV to view an inferior digital broadcast format. And finally squandering the gained resources in an auction of the analog TV frequencies for a fraction of their true worth.

Thank you.